

REMARKS

The Examiner indicated that claims 12-16, 20, 21 and 23 would be allowed if placed in independent form. This has been done.

The Examiner rejected claims 11, 17-19, 22, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103 with Baar in view of Stimson. Claim 17 was also rejected in view of these two references in combination plus Flohr.

Claim 11 distinguishes at least by reciting the stationary damping chamber being connected to the shaft via a flexible bearing and wherein said flexible bearing comprises a plurality of flexible elements connecting the damping disk to the stationary housing so that the flexible elements in combination with the ferro-fluidic fluid damp the oscillating movement of the shaft. Baar only has a damping means with no ferro fluid and no flexible bearing with flexible elements so that the flexible elements in combination with the ferro fluid dampen movement of the axis. Baar only has a grease between a circular disk and the chamber. Stimson only has a ferro fluid between the permanent magnet and a chamber of a meter for measuring electrical current through its electric coil. Claim 11 thus readily distinguishes.

The same is true of independent claims 19 and 24, which distinguish in similar fashion.

The dependent claims remaining dependent on respective claims 11 and 19 are allowable at least for the reasons claims 11 and 19 are allowable.

Allowance of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

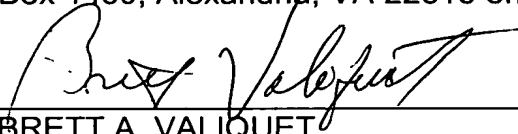


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Brett A. Valiquet
Schiff Hardin & Waite
Patent Department
6600 Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: 312-258-5786
Attorneys for Applicants
CUSTOMER NO. 26574

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BRETT A. VALIQUET

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